

Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fisher's Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

8 March, 2001

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Re: voluntary labeling of GE food

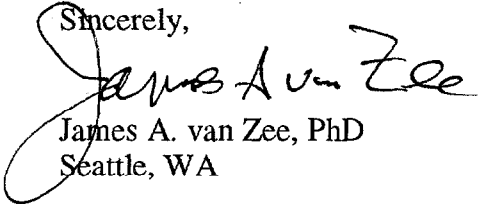
Excuse me? My loaf of bread tells me in excruciating detail just what I'm eating in terms of the most minute food additive ('Red 40') -- all of which have to pass extensive safety tests. (Recall a few years ago when one of the old standby coloring agents was found to be potentially carcinogenic?)

So why should I be less concerned when a non-natural substance, such as a modified fat molecule (Olestra) or a piece of wheat with a BT gene, etc. becomes part of my breakfast? I understand that these things -- just like food coloring -- have been tested, but logically I see no reason to disclose one and hide the other.

Commercially, however, the food industry is obviously fearful that people won't buy GE products -- and I think they are correct in that thought. All the more reason then that the Government should force them to disclose this information. Would YOU want to be an unwitting part of a giant experiment to see who gets sick? Remember how thankful we were that the FDA didn't approve Thalidimide? This is truly a case where we need Big Brother to look out for us!

I might also point out that European countries require such labeling, so if we intend to export any of these products, they will need to be labeled anyway. Again I realize that the Government has taken the position that GE food is safe and so doesn't need to be labeled. But if it is safe, what's the harm in telling people what they are eating? The potential harm, obviously, is to the huge industry that has staked its future on GE food -- but I hope I live in a country that values citizen's rights above industrial profits. Do I?

Sincerely,


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